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bury, Mass. The Librarian reported additions to the Library since the last meeting of 5 bound volumes and 43 catalogues and pamphlets. Attention was also called to a valuable donation of 56 bound volumes of standard works on the coins of France, Germany, Bohemia, Russia, Rome, Switzerland, Spain, etc., from President Daniel Parish, Jr. Mr. Charles Pryer, Treasurer, reported a donation from Permanent Corresponding Member Charles J. Shopper, of London, England, of a medallion of Temple Bar, struck from the lead which formerly covered the roof. On motion a special vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Shopper for his interesting and valuable donation. Mr. Isaac Meyer exhibited to the members two commemorative medals of the Sears family, of New England, descended from Richard Sears, the Pilgrim of 1630, also two beautiful intaglios, one of the Venus Callipygos, secured in Paris at the time of the Commune, and the other the Hippo-Centaur Chiron teaching Achilles, by the Greek sculptor ΑΙΓΟΛΩΝΙΔΟΥ. Both of these superb specimens were much admired.

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Mr. Tozo Takayanagi, whose long association with the first Japanese Manufacturing and Trading Company, of this city, made him familiar to and popular with our leading amateurs in oriental art, has established himself in art rooms of his own at 140 West 16th street, this city. He exhibits there a choice collection of gold and other lacquers, antique and rare porcelains, metal work, carvings, etc., many being prize pieces from the private collections of Mr. Heromich Shugio and Mr. Hayashi, of Paris.

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A sale which will attract all sorts of collectors of odds and ends is now in preparation. It will consist of the enormous collection of watches, in gold, silver and other metals, chains, charms, fobs and countless other trinkets, accumulated by a late New Yorker long engaged in business in the lower part of the city.

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Mr. Thomas B. Clarke was, I see, the recipient of a compliment which is, as far as I can recall, without precedent, at the January meeting of the Union League Club. After he had concluded the reading of his annual report as Chairman of the Art Committee, Mr. Chauncey M. Depew, in a five minute speech, briefly acknowledged the general services of the Committee, and warmly eulogized the special services of its chairman in fostering and sustaining the art of America, and commended him for the gifts of art objects he had made to the club collection. Mr. Depew's magnetic eloquence may have spurred the club at large to an unusual endorsement of his utterances. At any rate, Mr. Charles Stewart Smith, President of the Chamber of Commerce, followed with a resolution of regret for the retirement of Mr. Clarke as Chairman of the Committee, which was passed unanimously. If any retiring chairman received such a compliment from the Club before, the fact certainly passes my recollection.

### ART STUDY IN WASHINGTON

THE prospectus of the Art Students' League, of Washington, D. C., for its seventh season, makes a good strong showing. The League is located at 808 Seventeenth street, N. W., and the season extends from October 15, 1891, to May 28, 1892. The instructors include Messrs. E. C. Messer, R. N. Brooke, C. H. L. Macdonald, W. H. Holmes, R. Le Grand Johnston, U. S. J. Dunbar and Miss Bertha E. Perrie; and the Board of Control comprises Parker Mann, President; W. H. Holmes, 1st Vice-President; Mrs. E. M. Gallaudet, 2d Vice-President; Miss Elisabeth Winship, Treasurer; Wm. B. Chilton, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Herbert R. Hess, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Margaret Tomes, Superintendent; and Miss Bertha E. Perrie, Miss Aline E. Solomons, Miss Mathilda Mueden, Miss Anna M. Sands as directors.

The total endowment of the Astor library is \$1,990,375.35. The number of volumes in the library on December 31, 1891, was 238,946, exclusive of pamphlets. The visits of the students to the alcoves numbered 9,205, and the whole number of readers for the year was 62,182.

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The British Museum authorities have just issued the second volume of a catalogue of the 50,000 inscribed pieces of terra cotta or clay tablets, forming the rescued portions of the great libraries of Assyria and Babylon. The inscriptions come from the site of ancient Nineveh. The tablets embrace every class of literature, historical documents, hymns, prayers and educational works, such as syllabaries, or spelling-books, and dictionaries. The catalogues have been prepared by Dr. Carl Bezold, are beautifully arranged, and will tend to make the collections more accessible to students, and, in time, better known to the general public, who depend on specialists for the unravelling of the learning and wisdom of Chaldea.

### A SKULL COLLECTION

THE Pittsburgh *Dispatch*, in a recent interview with a physician of that city, ventilated the suggestion that the formation of a collection of skulls would be of scientific value to this country. As a matter of fact, there is one very important collection of this character already in existence. Dr. J. A. Denksinger writes in the last issue of the *Phrenological Journal*, as follows, of the Spurzheim collection in Boston.

A statement is made in one of the recent Sketches of Phrenological Biography, with reference to the cranium of Dr. Spurzheim and his collection of phrenological material, that is somewhat incorrect, and if it will be permitted I should like to say something with regard to the matter, and perhaps furnish a little information that may be of use to the reader of the *Phrenological*. First let me say that after the Boston Phrenological Society had terminated its active existence, the entire phrenological museum—including the skull of Dr. Spurzheim, his collection of skulls and busts, along with the busts collected and presented to the Society by J. D. Holm, of London, and the busts collected by members of the Boston Phrenological Society—was purchased by Dr. J. C. Warren, of Boston, and by him presented to the Harvard Medical School in 1847, at that time located on North Grove street, Boston. The donation then became part of the Warren Anatomical Museum.

A few years ago, when the Harvard Medical School removed to their new building, corner of Boylston and Exeter streets, they transferred the Warren Anatomical Museum to it also, along with the skull of Dr. Spurzheim, but his general collection of skulls and busts, over 400 in number, was left behind (being of no value, I suppose). The old college building is now partly occupied by the Harvard Dental School (another branch of the Harvard College) but the collection of busts can still be inspected by any one applying to the janitor. The room where they are placed is, however, in great disorder, being made the dumping ground of all kinds of rubbish. Spurzheim's skull, along with a lock of his hair, can be seen by any one applying to the janitor of Harvard Medical school, or to the curator of the Warren Anatomical Museum, on every Saturday, between twelve and one o'clock. Close by the side of the case containing Dr. Spurzheim's skull is the case containing the skull of his friend, Dr. Robertson, of Paris, who arranged in his will that after his death his skull should be prepared and sent across and placed beside that of Dr. Spurzheim.

Another object of interest in the Warren Anatomical Museum to phrenologists is the skull of Phineas Gage, of celebrated crow-bar-case fame, with which almost every phrenological reader is familiar. Having visited the Warren Anatomical Museum, with its phrenological treasures, as well the collection of busts at the Dental School, many times, I can assure every phrenological student that they are well worth a visit.

### SPRINGFIELD'S ART SHOW

MR. JAMES D. GILL, who has done so much for the advancement of art, and especially of American art, in New England, has made an exceptionally strong exhibition this season at his galleries at Springfield, Mass. This is his fifteenth annual display of the kind, and it is more varied and valuable than ever before. Some eighty artists are represented in upwards of a hundred and twenty-five examples, which include "A Picardy Peasant," by Charles Sprague Pearce; "The Delaware Water Gap," by George Inness; "The Heart of the Wilderness," by Robert C. Minor; "Calling the Ferryman," by D. Ridgeway Knight; "Found," by S. J. Guy; two pictures, one a "Niagara from the American Shore," by Albert Bierstadt, and works by Alexander Pope, James G. Tyler, Walter Blackman, Wordsworth Thompson, and others. The collection is said to represent a value of \$80,000.

It is said by a Chicago dealer that an autograph letter from Andrew Johnson will bring a higher price than one from any other of our Presidents. Johnson did not learn to write until he was married, and he never used the pen down to the day of his death when he could avoid doing so. Consequently he wrote very few letters, and any autograph dealer will pay \$50 for a genuine Andrew Johnson without a moment's hesitation. Lincoln's autograph letters are less valuable than Johnson's; they stand about on a par with Washington's, but a great deal depends upon the subject and character of the letter. "The most valuable autograph in the world is that of Shakespeare," said the dealer. "There are only three genuine autographs of Shakespeare in existence, and those are altogether out of the market. Bring me a genuine Shakespeare and I'll undertake to pay you fifty, yes, one hundred thousand dollars for it within a year. It might not sell immediately for a very large sum, but it would be sure to do so as soon as collectors were satisfied as to its genuineness and became properly excited about it."